Family-Centered Practice: First Thoughts

Take a look at the chart below on the beliefs and actions of family-centered practice. Use the third column to record your thoughts and ideas of how to incorporate this philosophy into your program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family-Centered Practice</th>
<th>Beliefs</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>First Thoughts</th>
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</table>
| Family-centered practice is a set of beliefs and actions that influence how I engage families. | Families are the most important decision-makers in a child's life. Families are unique and their differences enrich our programs. | - I learn about families' ideas and preferences.  
- I provide choices in programming.  
- I involve families in decision-making. | • |
| | I honor and respect diversity.  
- I involve all the important people in a child's life.  
- I engage and involve families.  
- I develop responsive and reciprocal relationships.  
- I represent families in our programs. | • |
| | Families are resilient. | - I learn about families' strengths, needs, and circumstances.  
- I connect families with resources.  
- I build families' strengths. | • |
| | Families are central to development and learning. | - I share information with families.  
- I listen to families.  
- I view families as their child's first teacher.  
- I respect families' expertise about their child. | • |
| | Families are our partners. | - I use respectful, responsive, and two-way communication.  
- I reach out to families.  
- I involve families in all aspects of our program. | • |